

January 2016

Newsletter

Board Members:

Esophia Clayborn, LCSW
Chair

Jennifer Venable-
Humphrey, LCSW
Vice-Chair

Amy E. Smith, LGSW
Secretary

Marilyn Latham Colson,
LCSW

LaShea Cobb-England,
LCSW

Sharrie Cranford, LGSW

Valeri White, LBSW

Individual Highlights:

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**Upcoming State
Holiday's**

February 9, 2016
February 15, 2016
April 25, 2016
May 30, 2016
June 6, 2016
July 4, 2016

Please note that the
Board Office will be
closed on the days
posted above.

ABSWE

Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners 334/242-5860 or 1-888-879-3672

View from the Chair



By: Esophia Clayborn, LCSW, PIP

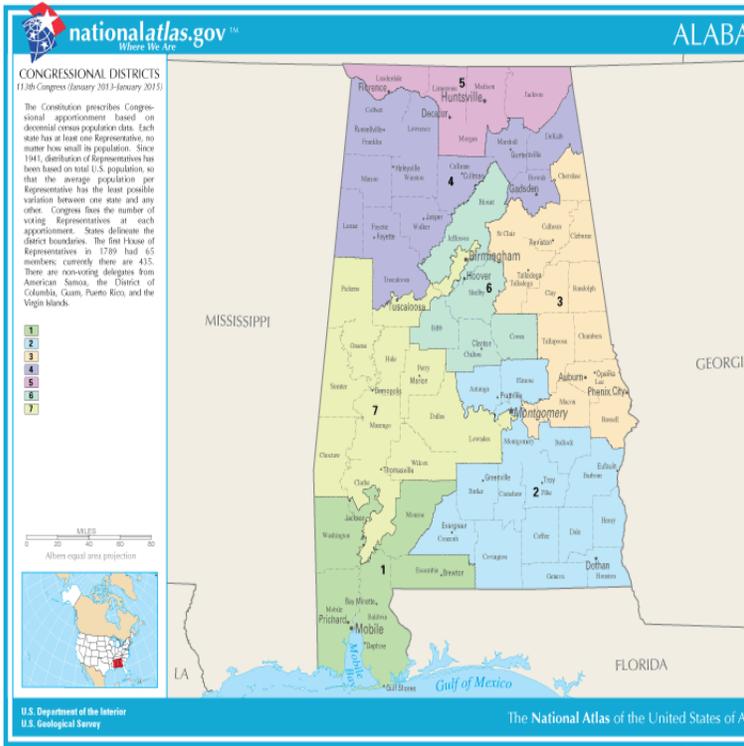
I am honored to serve as the chair of the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners. It has been one of the most humbling, insightful opportunities that a

social worker could imagine. We have moved quickly into the 2016 year and have already met and begun addressing continued enhancements and positive changes for the social work profession. Maintaining a license is a way of life, and therefore, should not be challenging. However, as a board, we realize there are circumstances that hinder renewals so there are now provisions in place to address reinstatement.

It has been rewarding to work on the updates to the Administrative Code (2014), and address mandated reporting and ethics training. We are continuing our efforts to look at impairment of social workers as a public protection issue. In addition, we are also preparing to offer a link to assist supervisors with helpful guidelines for providing quality supervision. One of the most exciting features is the upgraded layout of the website which offers links to forms, applications, and other social work related needs to support the profession. I recommend all licensed social workers and aspiring social workers peruse the website monthly in order to stay current.

Technology has afforded us many ways to assist agencies and organizations that have experienced funding cuts by the increased use of face time supervision and telemedicine interventions. Distance learning is also prevalent at the universities and colleges and driving the numbers of students graduating in the field of social work. We must

Two Board Appointment Openings



There are two positions for Board Members coming open for appointments October 1, 2016. These two positions are for LCSW's in District's 2 and 5. The current Board Members from these Districts are Jennifer Venable-Humphrey and Esophia Clayborn. Esophia Clayborn in District 5 has served two consecutive terms and is not able to return. If you are a LCSW from one of these Districts and are interested in serving on the Board you may start collecting letters of nomination from fellow social workers from your District. The Governor makes the final selection from the list of the persons with the most nominations for each District. The Governor's Office requests that we provide them with at least three names for each District.

If you're a LCSW living in one of these districts and this is something you might be interested in doing you may start collecting letters nominating you for the Board positions. If this is not something you're interested in, you may

wish to submit a letter on behalf of someone else or for the current member eligible to return. We'll accept nomination letters starting June 1st through September 1, 2016. We submit the top three names for each District who receive the most letters to the Governor. The Governor makes the final decision and appoints the Board Member for each district.

The duties of the Board are:

- To protect the public from incompetent, unethical and unlawful social work practice.
- To enforce qualification standards for all levels of licensure and certification.
- To delineate unlawful conduct through disciplinary procedures against practitioners who violate applicable laws or rules.

The Board meets every other month for about 4-6 hours.

Nomination Requirements:

- The person being nominated and the person doing the nominating must both live in the same District.
- You are allowed to nominate yourself.
- The person making the nomination must be a licensed social worker.
- Nomination letters must be mailed or hand delivered, you may collect the letters and send them in all together – *faxed or emailed letters are not acceptable.*

The Board appointments are for three years starting October 1, 2016 going through September 30, 2019. *No experience necessary* training offered on the job! There is no pay for serving under this capacity but you are reimbursed for travel expenses at the same rate as a state employee which is usually the same as federal government employees.

Continued View from the Chair.....

be mindful; however, to help the millennials understand that faster is not always better and sometimes clients being served may have perceptions about the division technology creates.

As a regulatory board, we take great pride in service to the state of Alabama. The vulnerable public is our priority. It is my hope that the 6000+ licensed social workers in our state are continuing the gold standard of life-long learning in order to remain qualified, dedicated, professional, and ethical. It is critically important that we maintain our profession so that it is not confused with other disciplines. We have accredited educational standards and policies that are specific to our training and our licenses set us apart in order to be identified as professional social workers.

Since November 2015, we have welcomed two new board members, Marilyn Latham Colson, LCSW (District 6) and Sharrie Cranford, LGSW (District 1). It is evident by early interactions that they have come prepared and bring expertise in several areas. We are most grateful for the service provided by the outgoing board members, Dr. Michael Daley, LCSW and Mandy Andrews, LGSW. Their contribution is invaluable and continues to be represented in our present documents, updates, and changes to codes and guidelines. You are truly missed and appreciated.

In devout service,

Esophia Clayborn, LCSW, PIP

The Beason-Hammon Act – Are you in Compliance?

It has been at least two years since the Board has sent out notices regarding the Beason-Hammon Act. Unfortunately, we still have some licensees that are not in compliance with this law that our state legislature passed.

So, our policy at this time is that we are not renewing licensees for people that have not submitted the Immigration Compliance Form to us along with appropriate documentation showing that they are legally in the United States.

The Immigration Compliance for Licensees Form is on our website. Simply click on the “Application and Forms Link” on our website. Only one form of documentation I.D. is required to be submitted with the Immigration Form that you will print out. These forms cannot be emailed or faxed to us. You will need to mail them through the United States Postal Service or come by the office if you wish to drop them off in person.

Ethics Continuing Education Requirement and Mandated Child Abuse Reporting

Please make note of this very important change in your continuing education requirement for your social work license. Three hours of ethics continuing education will be required for the renewal of your license. This requirement will be for each renewal cycle that you renew your license. Beginning January 1, 2017, we will not be able to accept your renewal if your continuing education hours do not include three hours of ethics.

Some guidelines for social work ethics content has been posted on our website. You can access this information by going on our website and clicking on the “CE” Link. Open the link to read that says “Guidelines for Social Work Ethics Content”.

Also new would be the Mandated Child Abuse Reporting requirement. The board did decide to allow licensees two years to comply with this one-time requirement. However, beginning on January 1, 2017, we will not be allowed to take a renewal for anyone that has not done the Mandated Child Abuse Reporting requirement. To comply with this requirement, a link for your convenience has been placed on our website under the “CE” Link. You will be given one hour of CE credit once you have completed the training. Be sure and print out your certificate at that time, you will need to submit a copy to the board to show compliance.

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Examination
Coordinator

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Renewals and Address Changes

We're been changing over to a new database for the last year. Our new system is supposed to give you, the licensee the ability to input some of your own information such as changing your address or contact information, also listing your CE as you attend the courses. It's been a slow and painful process as we get through the obstacles we've faced. It was expected that we would be up and running last year but needless to say that wasn't the case. Now that we are in the final stages of reviewing and testing. Hopefully it will be made available to you the licensee very soon.

CE Listings on the Website

We are still posting CE conferences on the website that are submitted to us for approval. If you look under "CE" and then go to "Approved CE Programs", you'll find the list of programs that has been approved along with the contact information if you're interested in registering. To save time please check this site first before sending in programs for approval. Very often we get the same program from several people. Also be sure to look at the "Approved Providers" because the programs related to social work from these preapproved providers are already acceptable and do not need to be submitted.

Also the conversion for Nursing CE hours to Social Work CE is as follows: Take the number of Nursing hours approved and multiply this by fifty; then divide that number by sixty and round it down to the nearest quarter.

For example: $1.2 \times 50 = 60 / 60 \div 60 = 1$ or

$5.6 \times 50 = 280 / 280 \div 60 = 4.6666$ rounded down to 4.5

PIP Application Approvals

All PIP applications most go before the Board at their meetings to be approved. The board meeting date is posted on our website on the first "ticker". We only post the next meeting as the date is set at the conclusion of each meeting. To have the application for PIP reviewed at the meeting, we need your application and supporting documentation in our office for processing at least two weeks prior to the meeting. This allows us time to process the application and to get it on the agenda, which must be sent to the board members a week in advance. Usually we fine tune the agenda the week of the meeting so the final cut is not ready until the day of the meeting.

New Licensed Social Workers:

[New license issued for Jan 2016.pdf](#)